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04/11/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2012 MEETING

In attendance: Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Gordon Jarmieson, Elizabeth Karpati, Brucie Moulton, Heather Remoff. Absent: Paul Bayer, Kathleen Bodie, Adam Chapdelaine, Dan Dunn, William Hayner, Annie LaCourt, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, William Shea, Heidi Sheehan.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with corrections.

Census Survey has had approximately 4400 responses out of 18500 households. Josh Lobel has compiled all on-line comments and sent them around to the committee, and Joey Glushko has categorized them; Bruce Fitzsimmons has done the same with the 60-70 comments received on paper. The comments need to be condensed (Josh and Bruce will work on this), and both survey data and condensed comments should be made available on-line and in a booklet for department heads.

Many respondents omit their precinct, although it is shown on the census form. Maybe they should simply be asked which quarter of the town they live in.

Gordon Jamieson suggested creating a database of the misconceptions revealed by the comments (e.g. someone suggested moving to waste-to-energy trash disposal when that is already happening), with the necessary corrections, and a clarification of terms like debt exclusion vs. override, and putting this information on-line.

Warrant articles: The Finance Committee approved requesting \$50,000 for the water bodies fund..

Task Group reports:

Environment – Sustainable Arlington: The EcoFest, planned in conjunction with the Planning Department, DPW, and the Garden Club, was held on March 31 and focused on food. It was a success, with the exhibit of goats from LexFarm being especially popular. The display on the shocking amount of food wasted in this country could be turned into a traveling exhibit going from school to school. Next year's EcoFest will focus on public space, its uses and misuses.

Environment - Reservoir: Even more plants have been stolen from the habitat garden. Some "brainstorming" suggestions were made: Highlight the thefts by putting a sign in the place of each stolen plant. Hide something in the rootball that sets off an alarm when moved. Motion detector activated lights. Anchor the plant with wire to a metal stake. Paint the stem with a bright color to make it conspicuous where the thief plants it.

Environment – Spy Pond: Jacob Friis is resigning as co-chair; Brad Barber, who has been spearheading the phragmites control project, volunteered to replace him. Some limited replanting in place of the phragmites is planned this spring, with more next year, guided by what succeeds this year. Representatives of a student group looking for environmental projects attended the April meeting. They are thinking of somehow screening debris out of stormwater; we suggested helping with our Web presence, perhaps by creating a Facebook page. The annual Trails Day at the south end of the pond is scheduled for May 12.

Diversity has new, young and enthusiastic co-chairs: Claire Carswell and Tarajee Pass.

Fiscal Resources needs to replace its representative to the Standing Committee (now Bill Shea). The new person must be approved by the Town Manager.

Heather Remoff explained that her series of articles is designed to help people understand the property tax, which consists of two parts: a tax on the land and a tax on the buildings. It will appear in the *Arlington Advocate* after the April 10 Town election.

All committee members are reminded to read the Open Meeting Law, sections 18-25, and take the on-line ethics quiz. The year-end event could have public art as a theme. Possible locations: Arlington Center for the Arts; Dallin Museum - Jefferson Cutter House; Main floor of Senior Center, which has a screen. Date: Tuesday, June 12, replacing the scheduled Standing Committee meeting.